

## **Southside/Rolling Hills July 20, 2010 Meeting Summary**

### Steering Committee Attendees:

Lorisa Seibel, Joe Parker, Evan Covington Chavez, Dan Levine, Ray Eurquhart, Kemionne Feely-Lewis, Michel Spencer, Camillia Foust, Farad Ali and Dianne Pledger

### Other Attendees:

George Roberson, Wilmur Conyers, Thomas Barr, Juanita Massenburg, Michael Pullum, Larry Jarvis, Mike Barros, Mary Kellers, Mayme Webb Bledsoe, Christina Endezezo, Charmaine Webster and Sandra M. Moore

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Joe Parker and Ray Eurquhart opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves
- II. **Steering Committee Rules** – Joe Parker and Ray Eurquhart
- III. **Introduction of Mayme Webb-Bledsoe** – Sandra Moore introduced Mayme Webb Bledsoe and her team to the steering committee. Mayme is from the Office of Community Engagement at Duke University. Mayme introduced her team members, Christina Endezezo and Charmaine Webster. Collectively the team is called Southside Consensus. Mayme informed the committee about what they have completed during their first thirty days and informed the committee that they would start canvassing Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. Christina presented the canvassing material for approval. The committee approved of all of the materials, card, doorhanger, announcement) except for the proxy form. Ray, Dan, and Joe had a problem with the wording considering that we are working to have a consensus instead of using the democratic process. Proxy implies voting. Mike Barros noted that proxy in this case was not about voting but for the proxy to be accountable to those people who have asked them to be in their stead. Sandra intervened and promised Southside Consensus would change the form. Southside Consensus promised to do so. Charmaine introduced blog and explained how it would be a place for community members and others to stay in contact with them and encourage residents to visit the community center. Councilman Ali liked the blog but brought up the point that not many residents have computers and asked the team if they were going to do a newsletter. Mayme informed him that they had spoken to a PAC -4 worker, Pam Pagan about working to get a newsletter together. Lorisa Seibel wanted to know if Southside Consensus could hand out invites while they canvass.

IV. **Presentation of Proposed Physical Improvements and Prioritization of Activities** – Mary Kellers presented McCormack Baron Salazar proposals to revitalize Lakewood and Whitted School to the steering committee. They are seeking direction from the steering committee for phasing and prioritizing. She informed everyone that they do not have funding for these projects, but once given direction could begin looking for funding for specific projects. Mary Keller explained how they wanted to work on Lakewood first. All of the rainwater is headed toward Lakewood and it puts a lot of pressure on that stream. There is a lot of erosion. She suggested they rebuild area to widen stream, get rid of erosion, rebuild trails and create a much more pedestrian feel. This is a high priority. Needs improvement sooner rather than later. The first phase would be to clean up. Ray suggested they talk to Sioux Watson about cleaning.

Next, Mary presented the Gateway Improvements for Lakewood. The Blackwell intersection can be beautified. We are giving this high priority because this is where the new home ownership is going to take place.

Third, Mary discussed the option of buying the store on the corner of South and Enterprise. During the charette many people called it a nuisance. Ray brought up the point that the guys are smart and have decreased crime because they know that people are watching. Captain Prendergass explained that it is difficult to tie the crimes that do happen to the store. There are several crimes documented on the corner, but the only way to deem the store as a nuisance is to tie the crimes to the store.

Finally, they presented the Whitted School. This is a high priority because it had deteriorated so much that if we wait, it will only get worse. Because of the state of the school, it must first be remediated in order to be stabilized. A ballpark figure for remediation is \$750,000. Councilman Ali asked why are we discussing this. He explained that he supports it on record, but we have to have a holistic look. This is long range planning. These are dreams or projections. Bringing on Mayme brings a lot of creditability to this project. He doesn't want to send the wrong message. We need small victories and then bring up the Whitted School. Lorisa brought up the fact that we could not decide on this today. Ray and Kemoinne had a problem with remediating the school now and having to come back and pay for the same thing again in five years. Sandra notified everyone that we had hit the 90 minute mark and that the group had originally agreed to meet for only 90 minutes. Everyone agreed that we would not be able to finish this in 30 minutes. Joe Parker suggested that we make this the number one item for the next meeting. The Steering Committee agreed. Sandra instructed Mary to take back all of her sheets and email them with her comments for the steering committee for their view. In a contextualized form as Lorisa suggested.

After this a discussion about getting persons to come to steering committee meetings commenced. Dan said that if we started two meetings on time than we may get more people to come out. Ray explained that there are several people who have not attended a meeting in over a year. Lorisa said that there are people who have attended the meeting regularly. We need to set deadlines and ensure that people get information early. Sandra explained that part of the problem is that the SC started off small and now there is a lot of committee engagement. She suggested that we set deadlines and make phone calls and see what happens.

Evan asked if the steering committee members would agree to put their phone numbers on the city website and all members agreed verbally. Evan stated that we will also be able to have a running list of FAQs and we will send that to Mayme?

#### **V. Review Critical Upcoming Dates and Events**

- a. Canvassing Orientation → July 21, 2010, 4:30 @ Southside Community Center
- b. Next Steering Committee Meeting → August 17, 2010 @ Hayti
- c. Housing Sub: Monday July 26<sup>th</sup>, 4-5

Lorisa Seibel asked Southside Consensus to hand out invites **to the Housing Committee meeting and home repair application session on July 26** while they canvass.

Respectfully submitted by Charmaine Webster